

# DOLL TALK

FOR . . . .  
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 4

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## DOLLS TELL THE STORY OF BRITTANY



The rugged peasant folk of Brittany have long ranked first among the French as proud individualists. Although one tiny village may be only a few miles removed from its neighboring hamlets, the staunch independence of its inhabitants require maintaining their very own customs, legends, practices and costumes.

About two years ago, the well-known doll authority and author, Luella Hart, compiled a book depicting sixteen dolls in the native attire of as many different villages

with text explaining history, culture, dress and customs of each, entitled "Dolls Tell The Story of Brittany." This informative booklet is available through Kimport at a new low price of \$1.75. The dolls pictured looked so fascinating that we negotiated with the Le Minor Company whose dolls had served as the original models for the illustrations, and, voila, as you can see by the pictures on this page and the next, we were successful! Sixteen petite mademoiselles in 7½ inch size now await either your

individual choice or to be grouped together in a dazzling and colorful array.

As many of you long-time Kimport customers know, Le Minor has long provided us with our standard line of beautiful French dolls, but these special femme fatales are even more richly garbed with velvet, lace and braid. Only the colors vary sometimes from the book descriptions, which is just a touch of individual artistry and not an error in authenticity. The dolls themselves are made of heavy French celluloid, with delicate features. We recommend the entire group, perhaps taking advantage of our Doll of the Month Plan which would entitle you to a free "Lucky Thirteenth," but they will be sold separately if purse or preference restricts you to just one or two. A limited supply of each model is in stock—repeat shipments may take several months, so do write and reserve a set to highlight in your collection!

And now for the Who's Who of this sweet sixteen, each more delightful than the ones before, and mon cherie, that is a Miracle of Brittany! We cut out and closely grouped the pen drawings by Eleanor Elsacht, her winsome illustrations used in Mrs. Hart's "Dolls Tell The Story of Brittany." Key numbers 1 to 16 will identify all, so, No. 1 is black clad "Yelig" from an extraordinarily historic low island, l'île de Sein. She is 511-I.

No. 2 is Mademoiselle "Franseza" from the coastal village of Brignogan; she may have been born in the very shadow of its 16th century light-house! No. 511M.

No. 3 is distinctively dressed

"Thumette," of Pont-E'Abbe. That "pont" or bridge built by Abbots dates back to the 10th century. No. 511H.

No. 4's gold tag says "Jem'appelle-Armelli," and her village of Vannes also dates back into far antiquity. That starched net cap and her special silken apron are far from recent dating, too. Armelli is order No. 511A.

No. 5 is "Maie" whose big lace winged headdress and knife-pleated ruff are doubtless most beloved details of all Brittany or even of all French provincial costumes. From Pont-Aven, No. 511F.

No. 6, "Fantig" could be the pretty widow of some seafaring young man—her story page in Luella Hart's book does stress the stories of funeral rites, of superstitions, etc., on the wee island of d'Quesant. No. 511L.

No. 7, "Mari-Annig" wears the ceremonial apron and dearly designed little hat of Chateaulin, her storybook town on the Brest-Nantes Canal. No. 511J.

No. 8 is the almost medieval looking "Correntine" from Quimper. You may know the delightful picture pottery from this ancient Bishopric; Mademoiselle Corentine is fully as decorative and stylized. No. 511G.

No. 9's name is "Mari-Janik" and she comes from the small city of Baud. Her starched lace bonnet has a third flying panel at center back. No. 511B.

No. 10 was christened "Jeffig" and her hillside village of Guemene is also rich in Breton history. Her book story suggests that the tall black velvet cap looks Judicial! No. 511E.





No. 11's gold tag calls her "Jan-ik," and identifies that picturesque costume as from the Brittany port of Paimpol. She's Kimport's No. 511-0.

No. 12 is "Zaig" who comes from the cross shaped island of Moines (monks). That lace and velvet cap under the sheer, draped coif is one of the most adorable in the whole charming aggregation! She is order No. 511C.

No. 13, "Donatienne," is far from unlucky 13th! Her complete old Bourge-de-Batz costume would glow richly colorful against the cold granite and bleak salt marshes surrounding Batz-sur Mer. No. 511N.

No. 14, "Mikaela" can well choose rich black with the prettiest of

white lace caps, because her background, Brehat, is a watercolor village indeed. On Ile-de-Brehat it is known as the "island of flowers and pink rocks." No. 511P.

No. 15, "Mari-Vonnig" represents the Plougastel peninsula, and there are especially interesting stories about her cambric cap and the wedding customs of Plougastel in Mrs. Hart's book. Her number is 511K.

No. 16 of our mounted drawings bears the name "Annaik." Her village is the martyred Lorient, where the annual festival has celebrated for over two hundred years, not later triumphs, but one of 1746 over the English! No wonder the picturesque old styles like these

sixteen are held and cherished! Annaik is listed as our No. 511D.

The price? Well, yes, that is important, too. So without more sales ado, any one Bretagne provincial miss is priced at \$7.50.

Book, "Dolls Tell the Story of Brittany"—\$1.75.

## FROM WHITHER TO WHOM

Cornelia Christopher wrote from New Jersey in appreciation of her last purchase, the Snake Charmer and Dancing Girl of Gujrath. In fact, Mrs. C. so promptly sent back information about the mirror cloth on the India woman that we got to use it on "Gujarati" our mirror bedecked beauty from just north of Bombay, in composing her pedigree page.

Merci, C. C., and how happy we were to return a slight favor to you!

Yes, here was her request: "Do you ever sell old materials? (Answer:—"Well, no, but—") "My need is for a small piece of white georgette crepe. I have tried at department stores, little old yard goods stores, written to friends who have kept 'piece bags', all to no avail. For the Bride talk I give on dolls, I would so like to dress one, copying my own wedding gown showing how both dress and veil material as well as styles have changed. It wouldn't require much georgette for little sleeves, a front and overskirt; the dress itself was slipper satin."

Thanks to some one of you who has shared her attic treasures with us from time to time, the proper vintage georgette has gone to help complete another project. By the way, Kimport repays carrying charges and always—except once—

sends a special thank you. We are still frustrated that one of the most magnificent "plunder packages" to ever come our way, was without a sender's name or address. It was labeled from some Jewelry Store—and whoever packed those choice treasures and sent them to the store to be mailed must have lost a bit of faith in mankind at never receiving acknowledgment.

What can we use or pass along to doll makers? Pliable materials, small scale patterning, if any; cloth in silk, wool and cotton rather than synthetics, for antiques; laces, embroidery or almost all trimmings; Grandma Ritchey asked for odd or old kid gloves for her doll making and we even sent a packet of exquisite but tiny scale things abroad to M. Uebel who makes and dresses those most beautifully authentic German provincials. Not begging for anything special at present, but when and if there are old doll clothes, right materials or even odd doll parts for which you have no use, they'd not be wasted at Kimport.

What a lot'o targets Cornelia C. sent us on this time!

## PRESTO: WISH GRANTED

If Mrs. Hooper of Texas had searched the Kimport line all through, she could not have selected a more authentic, attractive figure than the Charles Lindbergh doll. He's available right now; No. 131L at \$12.50, so Carolyn Ada will not be disappointed. Mrs. Hooper wrote:—"I wish the Charles Lindbergh doll for Carolyn Ada. She has admired him since he flew, and has a fine scrapbook on his life."



### THREE LITTLE MAIDS FROM JAPAN

Mrs. J. Howard Dellinger of Washington, D. C., kindly sends in further information on those exquisitely made Japanese maidens we offered in our catalogue. Even though these sell at only \$5.95 each postpaid, they evidently are important in the Japanese drama field. It is through the thoughtfulness of our collector friends like Carol Dellinger that we are able to pass along many interesting items in our specialized little magazine.

She writes:—"Those you describe are characters from the Kabuki dance dramas and the No plays. The wisteria girl is Fujimusume; the one in crimson with the horses head is Yaegaki-Hime, a heroine but the cause of contention between two families (like Juliet). The third one I think is Shirabyosh, a dancer of Dojoji. If you happen to have Poupees Japonaises (Dolls of Japan) by Kokusai Bun-ka Shintokai, you will find them illustrated on Page 42. They are not the geisha costumes."

### WHO'S TO SAY?

Well now, they're not all homely either! Perhaps to a Kenya swain even our wood carvings are beautiful! Mrs. Noel R. Graves of California expressed a basic truth of collecting, however, when she wrote:—"For a long time my daughter wanted to collect only the pretty dolls—none of these crude figures for her! But now she's beginning to realize that if her collection is to be representative of all countries, they aren't all going to be pretty dolls."

### WHERE'S JACK

"I have avidly read everything concerning Lincoln and his family as made available in our libraries, and in several accounts of his stay in the White House, mention is made of Tad Lincoln's doll, which was named "Jack," and which during the Civil War was repeatedly courtmartialled and buried in the garden. As many times as "Jack" was interred he was exhumed, but it does not say what eventually happened to the doll. Do you know whether it was eventually lost or is it in a museum where it, too, "belongs to the ages?"

—Velma Taylor, B. C.

### VISUAL, UNDERSTANDING

Angela Peterson is one of our doll collector friends who has filled many important posts in the general field of public relations. Now she is on the staff of the Dean of Men at Ohio Wesleyan University and, as she did when housemother at another men's school, exhibiting her well selected dolls. Recently Mrs. Peterson wrote—"I am seriously considering specializing in religious dolls and figures. I've quite a shelf full now and they attract so much interest. Here at a church university they would be appropriate, too. Do you have a Charles and John Wesley? I love my creche figures, my Peruvian wax baby Jesus, my angel heads, and someday want a Holy Family of a size to go with the ones I bought from Kimport. You have always had a talent for selecting dolls I like. Only one, I believe, was returned in twelve years, out of almost a hundred!"

# LATE ARRIVALS

When the British made a treaty with the savage Maori tribes of New Zealand in an early day, they copied the facial markings of the chief as a signature on the important document. Distinguishing marks of the little Maori dolls that we are now offering you are their facial decorations, maybe the same, or similar to their ancient symbols.



The dolls are not as ruggedly made as we would like, being simple jointed plastic, but their appearance is convincing and from their brown bodies to their frizzy black hair, they are in Maori likeness. He has the traditional grass skirt, nothing more except his

broad spear. The woman has her hair bound with a red head-band and is protected by a shoulder cape of coarse woven material, brightened by bits of colored yarn. They are 6½" tall, and of course direct from New Zealand. He is No. 280, price \$4.95; she is No. 280A, price \$5.25.



Dolls still escape the Iron Curtain and Roumania sends us two new pairs. From Moldavia, near the Russian border, comes a mountaineer couple. Like all four dolls in this series, they have individual green wooden bases; round wooden heads, neatly painted, and bendable wire frames. Six inch size for the men; 5¼" for the matching women. He is dressed Cossack style



in round felt hat, billowing cape with intricate designs painted on it and red sash. Moldavian Man, No. 856, \$3.25. His spouse has black braided yarn hair, stencil simulated embroidered scarf, blouse and apron, plus real leather shoes. No. 856A, \$3.25.

True Hungarians have always had an appeal to us, and their recent tragic heroism has endeared them the more. That's why we especially welcomed a fresh new shipment of dolls from Budapest, so we could offer you again, Zori, the lovely peasant bride.

It's a thrill to offer such rich quality in a collection doll from real leather shoes and lace stockings to the flower-topped crown on her head. Fine fringe, old braids and lavish use of that old world embroidered ribbon trim her skirt and bodice. Colors, both soft and brash, are not the ordinary dyes, but lavish Continental hues in fine profusion and bold harmonies. Composition head, thread hair, cloth body—9 inch size is radiant Zori. No. 205, Hungarian Zori—\$7.95.

A well justified repeat offering is made possible by the arrival of a new shipment from Israeli. The Orthodox Mother is the most tranquil, reverent looking lighter of the Sabbath candles. She stands 7½ inches tall behind a well anchored wooden stand on which the white cloth with its six pointed star insignia is spread. Two candles in twisted copper holders hold her attention. The father wears his fur hat, a prayer shawl and holds their revered Scroll of Law. Heads are of terra cotta, hands and feet thick layers of leather; proper garments, well made of good

materials. No. 892, father, \$5.95; No. 892A, Jewish mother, \$5.95.



You might call Belita of Paraguay "The lady with the big cigar!" She's been around before, and was formally introduced in our catalog, but a fresh new contingent has just come up from our Southern neighbor, and if you've overlooked her before, better make amends.

This is a big girl, 11 inches, strong enough to carry a woven reed basket on her head, because she's a peasant worker. While her clothes are of coarse material, she still has the feminine touch with lace on her blouse and red ribbons on her black braids. Oh, yes, the cigar? Well, there it is: maybe she prefers it to the TV brands. No. 380A. Price \$7.50.

"Don't EVER let my Doll Talk lapse! Have pocketbook—will pay."

—Betty Brink, Indiana

## MORE BISQUE MARKINGS

"We enjoy reading Doll Talk... Would like to add a few names to the bisque dolls, (Page 14 of Nov.-Dec. '57 issue) although so far as I know, your list of the twelve Name China Heads is complete. We have a J.D.K. baby marked 'Hilda' and the same marking on a dark-skin doll with different features. Another socket head is 'Duchess', another 'My Girlie'. A very pretty girl with heart-shaped face, socket head on ball jointed body is 'Beauty', A. Marseille.

"We have a baby on cotton body, much like Dream Baby, droopy closed mouth and sleeping eyes, with name 'Phyllis' on back of her neck. Then there's the demure little girl with 'Just Me' on her bisque head (socket). A baby head on cloth body with lovely molded curls and sleeping eyes has name 'Baby Gloria' and Germany. We were much amused by a little socket head with name 'Trebor', since we often reversed the spelling of my younger brother's name and called him Trebor. Our little shoulder head is spelled with a double 'l', 'Lilly' rather than as you list it. And we have a nice mache boy with the name 'Harald' on his shoulder, a 'WZ' doll."

—Natalie Kutz, Minn.

Viola Phillips adds—"My own bisque baby head on a composition body is 'Hanna', with the Simon Halbig initials and 'P.B.' in a five pointed star. And I have come up with more names on dolls, from Spinning Wheel for September 1954. There is 'Daisy' included with seven others that you had already listed in the china name heads,

these from Hertweg and Co. of Kolzhutte and Porzellan Fabric Co., of Veilsdorf. Both companies made china name heads 1870-1890.

'Mary Jane'—Steinach of Thuringia made this doll (bisque head) for Halle's of California. 'Cinderella' (1897). 'Queen Louise' (1910)—you've listed in Doll Talk. 'My Companion' (1911). 'Diane' (1903). 'Mildred Prize Baby', 'Bonnie Babe', as well as 'Florodora' and 'Uwanta' were made for G. Borgfeldt, New York. 'Baby Ruth' (1893)."

Mrs. John Thomason sent in word of her Simon Halbig 'Santa', and Helen Ward's 'Greta' won a prize way back when she was a seven-year-old. Mrs. Ray Greenwell's list included 'Jutta' and 'Melitta'.

## THERE WAS AN—"

Mrs. Clive Hinkley is the wood-en-doll authority from California whom Doll Talk has quoted be-times. Mercy, do accent that description kindly, as this Helen H. is a thoroughly delightful person whom we'd still love—wood or no wood! In a round-about way, here is suggestion for another project some of you miniature collectors (gently again) might enjoy.

"Too bad that no more of those tiny, jointed 'Peggy Marias' will be available. As you say, these Italian woodens did fit in so many places. This last one went in with my old-woman-in-a-shoe, making a good baker's dozen of children for her. I had already put two into this group dressed as twins, but I have enough old Calico to dress this one and have triplets! One is climbing a ladder, one is already on the roof and this last one is sliding down the shoe horn slide. Fun!"





We just thought up and so promptly printed a "Dreams-Can-Come-True" Want List on various antique types. What size and price range, costume or not preferred, etc. 'Would be glad to send, and of course have them returned to Kimport for reference. No obligation on your part is implied, but this could lead to some happy surprises betimes.

Being as it is now cold January, we are going to list first, some truly desirable doll orphans who lack proper clothes. Some of you do a remarkable costuming job; making doll costumes is fun if you're so inclined, and it can prove "penny-wise" also.

"Alice May" (head marked A. M!) is a rather dark complexioned, smooth, pink bisque; only defect, one broken bisque thumb; put a hanky into that dimpled hand. Nineteen inch, kid-bodied doll, with sleeping, big, blue eyes in her Armand Marseille head; parted lips with four white teeth formed in the bisque; modeled, not just painted brows; Kestner body has swinging hip joints with gusset type at elbows and knees. The wig is auburn, abundant, mohair with bangs and curls, original we should think. Cotton print and a pinafore would be sweet; No. A606, undressed, \$16.50.

Quite large, 21 inches; 5½ inch "Florodora" head, also an A. M. with kid body and exceptionally lovely dimpled hands with palm markings and fingernails; one

finger only, chipped inside. This Gay Nineties bisque could be elegantly clad—she only wears black lisle stockings and hand-made drawers. BUT, she does boast set-in (fur) eyebrows, sleeping blue eyes with lashes, and her gold-brown old wig is done lady style. No. A642, \$20.00

Another bisque headed lady with sleeping, dark blue eyes and lady style hair-do is 17½ inches tall, she, with wood and composition body. The 4 inch swivel necked head is quite slender and pretty with open mouth, dimpled chin, pierced ears in which, by the way, are nice old green bead earrings with matching glass necklace. Head marked S.H. and the D.E.P. abbreviation but not "Germany." Has matching petticoat and panties. Circa 1885-90 we would think. Red-brown wig is becoming—No. A645, \$18.50.

Somebody will surely adopt "David," another bisque-headed, composition and wood-bodied doll, 18 inches tall and plum nude! Perfect condition, we would say never dressed and played with, this wide-mouthed child with two "uppers" only has pierced open nostrils, sleeping gray eyes and a human hair, boy-bobbed wig; good body with swivel wrists as well as elbow, shoulder, knee and hip joints. 'Just noticed, it does look like one plump, separated finger may have been mended. No. A439, \$18.00.

Oh yes, there are others beside German bisques. Little 10½ inch stamped "Jumeau Medaille" has enormous brown glass eyes, pierced ears and closed mouth of course, swivel head onto bisque shoulders;

cork crown. The tiny-waisted, rigidly-erect kid body is all hand-sewn, fingers all perfect. Apparently this petite mademoiselle was never played with, as she came to Kimport from Paris wearing only her lace trimmed tarlton chemise. She is adorable! No. A652, \$110.00.

A real Dresden parian is one I have been wanting to costume my very own self, she is so exquisite and challenging. Deep shouldered, slender Empress Eugenie, her yellow hair held in a dark green snood with a purple luster drape across the top ending in a Dresden white tassel at one side, and the glazed plume clear down the other side all as beautifully painted as a miniature! Old body has the limbs intact, slim, parian arms and legs, although they are not of the finest quality that is the 2¼ inch high head. Height of doll over all is 10 inches. She does have a fine line mend around the neck, but it is exactly where a strand of little antique copper luster beads have been tied on. No one would suspect they did anything but match the copper in her headdress. This blond aristocrat, No. A637, undressed is \$85.00.

"Amy Ellen" has a Civil War era, 5 inch head of off-white china; deep shouldered, high browed with a white line center part dividing her smooth black hair, and pink line painting around eyes and at nostrils. Limbs are reproductions; pale green luster boots with heels, and slender, cupped hands are correct size and tint for the old head with its pleasant, almost smiling expression. Blue eyes have white highlights; body is tiny waisted, 15

inches her height. We had looked up some old silk print and "trim" material for a customer who was considering Amy Ellen, some exactly harmonizing green for her shoes, so this, ample for her gown could be included—no extra charge. No. A633, Spec. \$30.00.

And now the next category from the K.I.M. machine is—Miscellaneous, but dressed! Prettily dressed in knife-pleated blue challis with finest val lace, is a white bisque who certainly does have a different head, not a socket type, nor a shoulder head, but there is simply a Peter Pan collar, gilt trimmed, half inch below her neck; this rounds back into a disc in which there is a center opening. A looped button, as in the bisque socket heads, allows this pretty parian-bisque with modeled blond hair to turn clear around a-la-owl! Specially made body with leather shoes and hands—16 inch height, No. A587, \$32.50.

Different, too, is a 12½ inch girl baby with an enormous "squawk box" in her tummy. Press it and one leg, both arms, her whole chin do a flip flop! Energetic, I'd say, and yes, a chin cut up both sides to so behave is a bit disfiguring, but her deep blue, protruding eyes, and her soft blond wig under an old satin bonnet are compensation. Twelve-and-a-half-inch size, and fun—No. A626, \$9.50.

An 11 inch rather chubby, pretty bisque and composition boy is Little Lord Fauntleroy. Blond wig, sleeping brown eyes, swivel head with indented date, 1894, by Armand Marseille. Velvet suit, red silk sash, finest mull blouse are beautifully made. No. A653, \$20.00.



Small, 6 inch, German doll-house man; ruddy complexion, light brown hair and mustache. Handsome head, hands and booted bisque legs all perfect; a few moth bites in his brown wool uniform, No. A643, \$15.00.

Four and a half inches is small for a plump, all bisque tot with sleeping brown eyes. Auburn wig; hip and shoulder joints, she is perfect. No. A620, \$12.50.

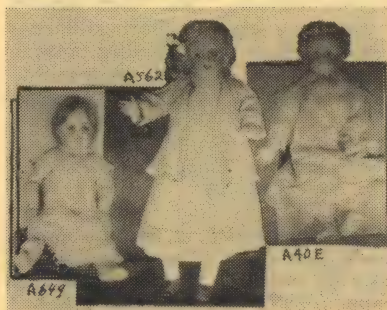
Five and three-fourths inches, and these tiny bisque-headed ones who sleep do not come our way very often. This cheery one we dubbed little "baby sitter," maybe because she wears a tidy white apron over a wine-red frock. Brown curls, blue open-and-shut eyes; nice quality composition body with hip and shoulder joints. No. A654, \$11.00.

Such an aristocratic and really old china-headed lady, just over 7 inches tall—she has extra large blue eyes and wide, wide hair style out from a high forehead; shoulders are that very deep old type with only one perforation, centered, for attaching to the body. High glaze white; old arms and legs; costume beautifully hand-made from dimity under duds to a rich silken gown. No. A631, \$18.00.

The next could be her china-headed daughter with her 1½ inch child type head, whose jet china hair rolls up at the back. Height, scant 6 inches, beautiful honey-luster booted legs and proper arms from H.D.D.H.; sweet hand-made old frock, No. A964, \$12.00.

A child, Minerva metal head has brown glass eyes, blond wig and unretouched complexion. Kid lea-

ther body, bisque hands (chipped). She wears a neat old chambray frock, made long waisted. Fourteen inches tall, 3½ inch head height; nice li'le ol' played with dolly, No. A599, \$12.50.



Pictured, three beautiful children from France. Seventeen inches tall, and oh, such a little charmer sits at your left. Her threaded blue eyes are the blown sort through which one may look; pierced ears and a tip of tongue looks like it was peeping between her closed lips. Deeply incised F.-8-G below the cork top in her lovely bisque head. Jumeau body needs paint retouching; becoming and best quality human hair wig of French make and styling is new. She, too, needs proper clothes, but as is, No. A649, \$115.00.

Tall, 22 inches, and centered is a Jumeau of different construction. Instead of her swivel head fitting down into a socket, as on the other two, this blond beauty's head is cut to fit over the neck-shoulder section which also has composition Jumeau arms run through it. The body is fine kid. Both she and—is it "younger brother?" have those outstanding, luscious blue eyes,

closed lips, pierced ears and cork top heads; marking on both is the Bte, S.G.D.G. Center dolly's shirred pink frock, scalloped petticoat and challis jacket are beautifully hand-made; she also has old red leather slippers. No. A562, \$150.00.

Just one size smaller, 20 inches tall, is the last darling bisque Jumeau with original composition body which is "Jumeau" marked. His wig is—has always been—blond angora curls over his cork topped head, truly a choice French doll, No. A40E, \$135.00.

And in closing, whether ye be segregationist or integrationist, you'd just have to welcome one, a pair or even all four of these 1880 paper dolls. Beautifully lithographed negro children, jointed at arm and leg tops, four different smilingly pleasant and really pretty children! Nine inches tall, No. A191P, at \$1.50 each.

### ANOTHER JET ERA

Mrs. Lillian S. Draper is one of our wise friends who budgets good antique dolls. In our initial description of the one now in her hold, old jet buttons got a mention, and in L. D.'s OK, she enthusiastically mentioned the "black glass buttons." "Black glass?" I fluttered—"Did I say black glass?" because Lillian had continued, "Being an ardent admirer of old buttons, I got out a glass button booklet but did not find one that seemed like those in this next doll's picture."

Next letter included this quote part which may do what we so enjoy—passing along 'educational' data:—"My conclusion is that we are both correct over 'jet' and 'black glass'. When we were first married, we took a trip to England. On

our travels, crossing the moors in Yorkshire we saw coal mines and the ruins of the old Abbey at Whitby. That was after Queen Victoria's passing and I was so curious about the pieces of jet jewelry we saw and was always told it was the Queen's only concession to wearing any ornaments since Prince Albert's death. Of course, the Court had also to bedeck itself in "Whitby Jet" made from inorganic coal. The refuse from the factory had been thrown into the sea and a lot of it, very light in weight, was imbedded in the cliffs. Jet was also found around coal deposits in China and other places.

I thought no more about it until a book came out in 1952, "Return Engagement of Black Glass Buttons" by Edith E. Fuoss and Caroline Smith. It starts with 1880 marked 'Black Glass' so that was why I used that term, but I have decided our doll is wearing real jet and I mean to get her out of hold as soon as possible."

### WE DO REJOICE

One of our gallant collector friends who has had to spend substance for surgery, and long anxious hours instead of happy contemplation days, just wrote:—

"I wonder if it seems as long to you folks as it does to me since I've had a new doll! But I, the English teacher, am still alive and happily assured that all will be well, so—please send Rip Van Winkle. For ten years now the relationship between you folks at Kimport and me has seemed to be more than that of merchant and customer. I do appreciate your courtesy through the years."

—Anne Carter, Fla.



# DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

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## ACCENT ON EDUCATION

"I have an English Dame School with these woodens in it, and to my husband and me, they are our prime favorites."

—Mrs. R. H. Walton, Penna.

We sent that quote back to E. Mary Walton for her OK, and got so much additional data that here's s'more on their fascinating project. Oh, she apologized by saying we had not asked for details, but neither does one expect a bushel of darling details when inadvertently inquiring of some fond grandmother about her amazing descendents.

"Just a few polite words and how the fond collector does go on! I realize once you started using photos of your customers' dolls in D. T., you would be swamped. However, we did want you to see how unique this setting really is. The teacher is a trifle over 8 inches, and has the cunning yellow-tuck comb. All the others had to be classed as children."

We would have been proud to pass along this photograph for you all to see, but it's reproduction was not practical. Fourteen wooden

children sit, four on each side, in the floored enclosure; the other six (one holding a doll of herself in replica) occupy a two tiered settle at center back.

Mrs. Walton wrote concerning this room fenced in on three sides: — "The spires represent church steeples and the slits in the arches held Biblican scenes that have the text, on the other side, in old script. I have data informing me this school was made in 1823 to house the dolls. The children's slates are seen and also their books. I feel the teacher's costume may have been done later, although this is the exact way I received them from England. Having those seated in the middle reminds one of our present day P.T.A.!"

## BUSY LITTLE GIRLS— BLESS 'EM!

In a recent issue of CONNECTICUT CHRONICLES, sent us by the Shaw Clipping Service of Danbury, Conn. there was a unique doll story:

"One of the first mail order businesses was established in Bridge-water, Conn. by Charles B. Thompson about 90 years ago.

"Like many a later merchandiser, Thompson shrewdly realized how effective premiums might be in building up his business. Little girls throughout the country became some of his best salesmen because among the premiums were beautiful dolls. Avid of getting one of the dolls, the girls sold such quantities of toilet soaps and facial creams that manufacturers could not supply Thompson's orders and he set up a plant of his own in Bridgewater!"

## "VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS"

Maretta Wilcox who owns the "Maretta's House of Dolls" (Bergen, N. Y.) wrote a bit about her special arrangements at Christmas time. Too bad these descriptions couldn't have been in time for last Doll Talk:—"The dolls in my museum are all very busy now. One group is wrapping packages of the dearest old toys and dolls—another is delivering pretty packages from a darling old white sleigh; still another is getting the Christmas dinner in an old-fashioned kitchen. Then there is a sitting room where the family has gathered around the tree to open their presents, and still another bedroom where father has just 'thrown back the shutter and opened the sash' to see St. Nick as he goes over the house top. I have had such fun!

"And let me tell you, too, that Doll Talk is my favorite bedtime reading, sending me off to dreamland with the happiest thoughts available."

## NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Mrs. A. B. Christopher of New Jersey has made enthusiastic plans for visiting the Philadelphia show, but alas, had a muscle injury and lucky to escape a hospital turn. She thoughtfully sent newspaper clippings of the display of Kimport Dolls, and is already making Christmas plans. "I shall be back in circulation giving Christmas doll talks, I hope, for I have so many scheduled for December. I shall make some kiddies happy. Time never hangs heavy that is sure, if you have a doll hobby."

## CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"The Luxembourg girl arrived safely and I am ever so well pleased with her. I only wish she might have arrived in time for our U. N. Exhibit at Carnegie Museum. We had dolls to represent all of the U. N. countries but two—Luxembourg was one of those two. This doll would have been a worthy member of the exhibit. For several years I have had the cutest story to go with a Luxembourg doll, but no doll. Now I can use my story with my very lovely doll."

—Marie L. Russell, Penn.

"It isn't a lot of 'polite palaver' when I say I do enjoy Doll Talk from cover to cover; wouldn't even need pictures to enjoy it, though I am very busy, too."

—Irma Helsing, Ill.

"I was sorry to read of Janet Johl's death. She was a Smith College girl, but not as far back as I. I am an invalid grandmother now, collecting little gifts for my grandchildren's Christmas. When younger, I collected dolls and had many of yours and am trying to get my son's children to start."

—Mabel Havell, N. J.

"Everyone is fascinated by the old underwear of the big 'Miss Lucinda' I got in Philadelphia. We just decided to make new undies and keep the old ones off ready to display as I seemed to continually be undressing and dressing the poor lady!" —Leona Peterson, N. Y.



"The little Bullfighter is exquisite!! I have created a ceramic bull and the twain make a wonderful pair!" —Adele Ascher, Wisconsin.

"I used a good quality linen handkerchief to re-cover my old china doll's body, right over her original skin. She should be good now for a hundred years more this way." —Lucille Sample, Calif.

"I saw a little group from an old Philadelphia home—twelve of the tiny wooden dolls around a quilting frame which held a miniature pieced quilt. Each doll was beautifully dressed and it was dated 1847!" —Ursula B. Camp, N. Y.

"For years I have kept each miniature copy of your informative magazine; all parts of it delight me, and the contents seem never out-dated! To me it is one great big dollar's worth of happiness." —Eleanor Rawlings, Ill.

"In looking through an old bound volume of Hobbies, I was amused to see a 'German Staffordshire' advertised!" —Martha Cramer, Ohio

"Each time I look at the dolls you have sent me, I wonder how you can send such unusual ones for such a low price." —Mrs. Ray Gaver, Maryland

"I do not know of any other way I can spend \$1.00 that brings more pleasure than I get from your little magazine." —Mrs. J. A. Westin, Ark.

"I think my new Lindy doll is charming and I'm proud to add him to my lovely collection." —Florence Hamilton, N. J.

## MORE ABOUT TRADEMARKS

When Luella Hart did the series of French trademarks for "Spinning Wheel" magazine, we knew it would be popular and put in an advance order for hundreds of copies to pass along to our customers. But we under-estimated the interest this careful writer awakened and we sold out to our last copy.

In a recent letter from Mrs. Hart, she wrote:—"About the trademarks and patents of the three countries: Spinning Wheel has already given permission to let me reprint if I credit them with the first printing. I hope to find a publisher when I get the British and German trademarks complete. Am working now on French patents of the 19th century."

It goes without saying that Kimport will stock and sell the new publication when it is available.

## PICTURE ME—"

Mary Kramar, California doll devotee, concocted the cleverest gift portrait doll, a Convention gift for those who worked with her. Wearing the antique black lace which she modeled at the U.F.D.C. Banquet fashion parade, this doll was definitely life-like as it was a studio photograph, cut out, mounted, then costumed to scale with even her black lace parasol! A similar one of Mrs. K. in her wedding gown is on Page 260 of Johl's "Your Dolls and Mine."

It's another suggestion graciously O.K'd with "Certainly, if you think some one else might care to cut up her photo for such a project."

Why not for your beloved "Valentine?"

# DOLL PRIMER: Would you recognize a Darrow?

If you were privileged to rummage around in the attic of some farm home, where no one had explored for a half century or more, there is one chance in a million that you might come across a battered old doll, its head looking almost like a mummy all cracked around with features bashed in and the paint of eyes and hair mostly peeled away. Only an expert would know whether it originally was of rubber or leather, unless by miracle there was found a trademark label on its chest, painted black on green, saying, F. E. Darrow, 8, Patent

May 1st, 1866. Then behold you would have a treasure, a Darrow doll, not much to view but possessed by only a handful of collectors the United States over!

Yankee ingenuity has always left no field untried. Just after the Civil War, F. E. Darrow in Bristol, Connecticut, worked out the method of making leather headed dolls. In the words of his patent application: Rawhide is cured in usual way. Cut into blanks of suitable size. Boil 2 gallons of water containing one pound of lye and with the steam, saturate the leather. Then with die and press stamp it

in desired shape." Face and back of head were glued together, the features and hair painted on, and customers made bodies to suit themselves. The few existing models are from 15 to 17 inches, including stuffed cloth bodies, and there have been separate heads 3 to 5½ inches. Each had deep shoulders convenient to label in front and on which to attach the bodies.



In 1867 Mr. Darrow incorporated with a partner, John A. Way. Way probably brought in capital and a fatal idea for expanding. They added a line of raw-

hide belts for power machinery and while their customers liked the belts, the factory rats liked them, too. They were veritably eaten out of business and by 1877 were bankrupt, dollmaking and all.

During the 90 years since, it's easy to see what hazards the dolls themselves ran, and how few survived. Only one other patent for leather head dolls was taken out, that by W. E. Brock, but little information is available on him. Moral: If you'd leave your imprint on the faces of dolls, stay away from edibles!

SEND ALL ORDERS TO

**KIMPORT DOLLS,** P. O. BOX 495  
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